

inhibitory agent comprising an amount effective of trehalose for said inhibition [in an aqueous system].

[Rewrite claim 6 in amended form as follows:]

6 (Amended). The method of claim 5, wherein said plant substance ^{in a juicy form} is a plant edible substance and/or a plant antioxidant having said active-oxygen-eliminating activity.

Claim 7, line 1, delete "5" and insert therefor

--6--.

Claim 9, lines 2 and 3, please delete "as an effective ingredient".

Claim 10, line 1, delete "contains" and insert therefor --further comprises--.

Please rewrite claim 11 in amended form as follows:

11 (Amended). A composition obtainable by incorporating [said] an inhibitory agent [of claim 1] into a plant substance with active oxygen eliminating activity to [inhibit] provide inhibition of the [reduction] decrease of said activity, wherein said inhibitory agent comprises an amount sufficient of trehalose as an effective ingredient for said inhibition.

Delete claims 1-4 without prejudice to the present invention and without prejudice to applicants' rights to proceed with a divisional application (if applicants choose to do so)

without any penalty whatsoever, and fully relying on the provisions of §§121, 120 and 119, and insert the following new claims in place of claims 1-4:

--27. The method of claim 5, wherein said inhibitory agent comprises at least 20 w/w % of said trehalose.

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--28. The method of claim 27, wherein said inhibitory agent further comprises ~~at least one of pullulan and cyclodextran.~~

--29. The method of claim 5, wherein said effective amount of said inhibitory agent is at least about 5% on a dry solid basis.

--30. The method of claim 27, wherein said effective amount of said inhibitory agent is at least about 20% on a dry solid basis.--

REMARKS

The official action of March 31, 1999, and the prior art relied upon therein have been carefully studied. The claims in the application are now claims 5-30, of which claims 11-26 have been withdrawn from further consideration. Applicants' claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under §§102 and 103, and should be allowed. Favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully urged.

Acknowledgement by the PTO of the receipt of applicants' papers filed under §119 is noted.